

Remarks:**A. Status of the Claims**

Claims 27-40 were pending prior to the amendments made above. Claim 28 has been canceled. Claims 27 and 29-40 are therefore currently pending.

B. Conclusion

It is believed that no fee is due for filing this Preliminary Amendment. However, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to this document, consider this paragraph such a request and authorization to withdraw the appropriate fee from Fulbright & Jaworski Deposit Account No. 50-1212/OMRF:050US.

Respectfully submitted,



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